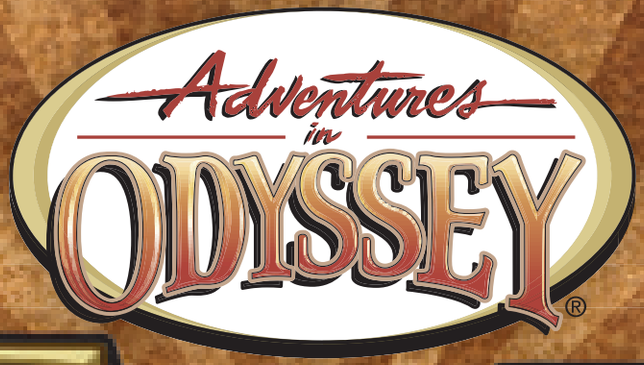

THE TRUTH CHRONICLES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Who is God? Why am I here?

Is there something more?

Does God care?

Are there absolutes?

"Do you really believe that what you believe is really real?"

What is truth?

Do I really matter?

Where did evil come from?

Do heaven and hell exist?

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY'S

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An In-Depth Christian Worldview Experience

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DISCUSSION GUIDE

The episodes in this album were inspired by Focus on the Family's The Truth Project®, a 13-hour course in Christian worldview for adults. You don't have to take the course to begin your children on an adventure in understanding God's plan for humankind. Just listen to the "Adventures in Odyssey®" episodes together, review the "key concepts" material and use the discussion questions that follow. Come along with Whit, Connie, and other beloved Odyssey characters to introduce your children to biblical truths that will transform their way of thinking—and their lives.

1. Here Am I

Key Concepts:

Everyone has a "worldview"—a way of looking at life that answers such questions as *Who are we? Who is God? Why are we here?* A biblical worldview is one shaped by the Bible, the only source of absolute truth. Since truth is an accurate description of reality as revealed by God, truth does not vary based on opinions, experiences, or situations. God is calling each of us to stand up for biblical truth. But first we must ask ourselves, do we *really* believe that what we believe is *really real*?

Ask Your Kids:

1. According to Whit, what is a "worldview"?
2. Senator Theodore and Big Bear seem to believe that Man is basically good, but that circumstances make Man behave in bad ways. Do you agree with them?
3. Mr. Meister talked about *his own* "truth" instead of *the* truth. If something is true, isn't it true for everyone?
4. God called the prophet Isaiah to be a messenger of His truth. Is God calling you to be a messenger for Him?

2. The Truth Be Told

Key Concepts:

Our "worldview"—what we perceive to be true about life—directly affects the way we act. For example, people who think life is based on "random acts of nature" (evolution) might argue that what's right or wrong is based on upbringing or culture. They say it depends on each situation. Knowing God's truth keeps us from being taken captive by the lies of the world.

Ask Your Kids:

1. How do you decide what's true and what isn't in your life? How much do TV, school, and friends affect your view of the truth?
2. What might you do differently if you didn't believe in God?
3. How do people decide what is right and what is wrong? Who or what determines whether something is "good" or "evil"?
4. In the role-playing room, Connie learned about "situation ethics." Do you ever use situation ethics?
5. How does knowing the truth from God "set you free" (John 8:32)? Read Colossians 2:8 and discuss the concept of being held captive through wrong ideas.

3. The Science Club

Key Concepts:

Darwin's theory of evolution is taught as fact despite a lack of evidence to support it. For example, the fossil record does not confirm Darwin's model. Moreover, scientists today are finding overwhelming proof that the workings of Man and the World were not random acts of "nature" but of an "intelligent design."

Ask Your Kids:

1. Describe what is meant by the theory of evolution. Have you heard this taught in school or on TV?
2. Why do you think the idea of evolution is so popular? Why does it appeal to people who don't believe in God?
3. Pick up your favorite pet. If your dog or cat lived for a million years, do you think it might turn into a shark?
4. What does it mean that the heavens declare the glory of God (Psalm 19:1)? Name three things you saw today that are proof of God's design.

4. Three In One

Key Concepts:

God is a God of order, not just in the physical world but also in the social realm. Hence He created such basic spheres as the state, the church, and the family. We must resist efforts to redefine what He created, and we must be wary when one sphere, such as government, tries to take over another sphere, such as the family. More than that, God's very nature—the Trinity—is imprinted on all aspects of His creation.

Ask Your Kids:

1. Can you give examples of God's order that affect you?
2. Where did the concept of "the family" come from? What happens to our world when we begin to accept different definitions of what a family is?
3. Often movies, TV, and music make fun of parents, teachers, police officers, or others who are in authority over you. In what ways is authority bad? In what ways is it good?
4. Eugene and Nelson had a conversation about the three parts of an egg. What other "three's" in nature point to the concept of the Trinity?

5. In My Image

Key Concepts:

We were made in God's image, but in rebelling against Him we find ourselves slaves to other "gods" (ourselves, our possessions, other people, other institutions). The battle to do what we want, against what God wants, is ongoing—even for Christians. There are always consequences if we don't follow God's ways.

Ask Your Kids:

1. Will wanted to get out from under God's—and his parents'—control because he didn't like being told what to do. Have you ever felt that way?
2. Will tried to replace God with another "god" called Affirmus. What happened?
3. Can you think of a time when you simply followed your heart's desire and doing so got you into trouble?
4. If you made getting stuff and/or friends your goal, do you think you would be happy? Why or why not? What does God say we should live for?
5. Do you ever feel a fight inside of yourself between what you *know* you should do against what you *want* to do? (See Romans 7:18-25.)

6–8. Kidsboro

Key Concepts:

The government is a divine institution charged with the responsibility of punishing evil and condoning good. But it must rule under God's guidance, basing law on scriptural principles rather than on the government's ideas of right and wrong. But sometimes governments drift away from God's plan and become something other than what they were intended to be. There are negative consequences for governments—and their people—that stray from God's design.

Ask Your Kids:

1. God invented nations and what we call "the state" or the government. What is the purpose of the government? (See Romans 13:1-4.)
2. In order to punish evil, a government must have laws. Where should people look for guidance when creating laws? Did America's Founding Fathers use the Bible to establish laws?
3. What does it mean to have "liberty"? Would we experience more liberty if we didn't have to obey any laws?
4. Ryan and Nelson were in the government of Kidsboro, but they found themselves in difficult situations—even doing

the wrong things for what they hoped were good reasons. Is it ever right to do wrong, even if you mean well? What happens when a government behaves that way?

5. What are the consequences when a government drifts away from the principles found in the Bible? Do you see that happening with your government? How?
6. Should the government decide what schools teach? Should the government take care of the poor, or is that someone else's responsibility? Is it the government's job to decide if parents are being good parents? What do you think happens when a government becomes all-powerful?

9-10. Stepping Stones

Key Concepts:

The story of the Pilgrims is but one example of the strong Christian foundation upon which our nation was built. That foundation is obscured today by prevailing philosophies and an attempt to revise what actually happened and why. Some would argue that attempts to abandon our spiritual roots are plunging us into spiritual darkness. Many of the Founding Fathers believed that a republic cannot stand without moral principles or the biblical truths from which morality springs.

Ask Your Kids:

1. The Pilgrims were being persecuted in England. By whom? What was their reason for moving to Holland? Why did they decide to leave Holland and sail for America?
2. See how many trials and troubles you can list that the Pilgrims had to endure.
3. What can you do if you suspect that a school textbook isn't telling you the truth about American history? Using a history text or the Internet, find and read the original text of the Mayflower Compact. How does it compare to what you were taught?

4. Have you ever tried to do something that God wanted you to do but ran into problems along the way? Did you keep trying or quit?
5. Why did William Bradford say the Pilgrims were "stepping stones"?
6. The Pilgrims thanked God for taking care of them even though things had gone badly and many people had died. Do you sometimes find it hard to give thanks? What does the Bible say about giving God thanks?

11. The Final Call

Key Concepts:

Having a biblical worldview is worthwhile only when we let God shape us into people who reflect His character. But who is He? Scripture shows us repeatedly that He is a God of love. He has a deep heart of compassion for all humankind, especially for the lost, the outcast, the poor and needy, the lonely, and the forgotten.

Ask Your Kids:

1. Does God love people who are "evil"? If so, why?
2. Jonah felt angry and upset when God told him to preach to Ninevah, yet God expected something more from Jonah. What was it?
3. How do you think God wants you to behave towards people you don't like? Who are people who need you to show kindness to them?
4. Callers suggested ways to show God's compassion and love. What kinds of ideas would you add to the list? When Isaiah heard God's call, he answered, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8). Are you ready to say that too?

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